

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 148137

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, (SENGHOR, LEOPOLD), SG
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SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S LUNCHEON FOR SENEGAL PRESIDENT SENGHOR:
MIDDLE EAST, ANGOLA, WESTERN SAHARA
1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER,
PRESIDENT SENGHOR LUNCHEONED AT THE DEPARTMENT AND
DISCUSSED THREE SUBJECTS WITH THE SECRETARY: THE
MIDDLE EAST, ANGOLA, AND THE WESTERN SAHARA. ON THE
MIDDLE EAST, SENGHOR APPROVED OF OUR EFFORTS TO SEEK
AN EXPRESSION OF ISRAELI VIEWS ON THE STATUS OF THE
WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP AFTER THE TRANSITIONAL
PERIOD. WITH REGARD TO ANGOLA, SENGHOR NOTED HIS

ADVOCACY OF A CONTACT BETWEEN SAVIMBI AND NETO. HE ALSO SAID HE WOULD SEEK APPROVAL OF HIS PROPOSAL FOR A REFERENDUM IN THE WESTERN SAHARA AT THE OAU SUMMIT IN KHARTOUM. END SUMMARY

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2. THE SECRETARY BEGAN BY SAYING THE PRESIDENT HAD ASKED HIM TO DISCUSS THE MIDDLE EAST. THE SECRETARY SAID THE SITUATION WAS PRESENTLY STALEMATED AND LITTLE PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE TOWARDS NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID THE US HAS ASKED THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TWO QUESTIONS. 1) WOULD THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AGREE ON A DEFINITIVE DECISION REGARDING THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE

WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP AT THE END OF THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD? AND 2) IF THEY WOULD AGREE, WHAT MECHANISM WOULD THEY SUGGEST FOR CONSULTING THE POPULATION OF THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP? PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AGREED TO PUT THE QUESTIONS TO HIS CABINET AND TO PROVIDE AN ANSWER IN MID-JUNE THAT WE COULD TRANSMIT TO SADAT. THE SECRETARY SAID A CONSTANT PROBLEM IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL HAS BEEN ITS REFUSAL TO SAY WHETHER OR NOT THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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WEST BANK COULD BE TRANSFERRED. IF THE ANSWERS ARE POSITIVE, WE CAN RESUME NEGOTIATIONS. IF THE ANSWERS ARE NEGATIVE, SADAT WILL PUT HIS OWN PROPOSALS ON THE TABLE. THE SECRETARY SAID HE HOPED TO HAVE A POSITIVE ANSWER FROM ISRAEL. IF WE DID NOT RECEIVE A POSITIVE ANSWER, THE SITUATION COULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT.

3. SENGHOR COMMENTED THAT, VIEWED OBJECTIVELY, THE US APPROACH SEEMED SENSIBLE. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN AND ADMIRATION FOR SADAT. HE ADVOCATED A ROLE FOR THE PLO. HE THOUGHT THE US SHOULD HAVE SOME LIAISON WITH THE PLO. EVEN IF ONLY AN INDIRECT CONTACT, HE SAID THE PLO WAS DIVIDED AND THAT ITS MOST REASONABLE MEMBERS WERE MEN LIKE ARAFAT, THE MOST UNREASONABLE WERE THE CHRISTIANS LIKE GEORGE HABASH. SENGHOR SAID HE DISAGREED WITH SADAT WHO THINKS THE GAZA STRIP AND THE WEST BANK COULD BE INTEGRATED INTO JORDAN. HE SAID THAT SOME FORM OF FEDERATION WOULD BE PREFERABLE. BUT, HE COMMENTED, ARAFAT DOES NOT WISH TO DISCUSS THESE POINTS WITH BEGIN WHOM HE REGARDS AS A FANATIC. SENGHOR SAID HE HAD RECENTLY SEEN SHIMON PERES WHO FAVORED A CONFEDERATION BUT DID NOT WISH TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS WITH ARAFAT WHOM HE REGARDED AS A TERRORIST.

4. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT WE DID NOT HAVE DIRECT LIAISON WITH THE PLO BECAUSE, AT THE TIME OF SINAI II WE TOLD ISRAEL WE WOULD NOT DEAL WITH THE PLO UNTIL IT RECOGNIZED

ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST. WE CONTINUE TO HOLD TO THAT POSITION. WE HAVE CONVEYED WORD TO ARAFAT THAT IF HE MADE A STATEMENT RECOGNIZING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST, WE WOULD ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH HIM. ALTHOUGH HE HAS COME CLOSE TO MAKING SUCH A DECISION ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, HE HAS NOT DONE SO AND AS A RESULT WE HAVE NO CONTACT WITH THE PLO. SENGHOR SAID HE WOULD CONVEY THIS TO DR. SARTAWI WHOM HE EXPECTED TO SEE SHORTLY AND THAT

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THE SECRETARY HAD JUST GIVEN HIM A MASSIVE ARGUMENT TO USE IN THAT CONVERSATION. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT GAZA COULD HAVE A CONFEDERAL STATUS WITH JORDON OR ISRAEL, OR REMAIN IN A TRANSITIONAL STAGE FOR A CONSIDERABLE PERIOD.

5. THE SECRETARY ASKED SENGHOR HOW HE ASSESSED THE POSSIBILITIES OF A RECONCILIATION AMONG THE ANGOLAN FACTIONS. SENGHOR REPLIED THAT HE HAD RECOMMENDED FROM THE BEGINNING THAT THE THREE FACTIONS UNITE TO DEAL WITH THE PORTUGUESE. HE SAID HE HAD GOOD CONTACTS WITH SOME FACTIONS. FOR INSTANCE, THE LEGAL ADVISOR OF UNITA HAD BEEN SENEGALESE. HE SUGGESTED THAT SINCE EACH FACTION CLAIMS TO BE SOCIALIST THEY MIGHT MAKE COMMON CAUSE, AS DID THE VARIOUS SOCIALIST FACTIONS IN SENEGAL BEFORE INDEPENDENCE. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THERE STILL COULD BE DIALOGUE BETWEEN SAVIMBI AND NETO. HE SAID THE CUBANS ARE SEEN AS AN ALIEN AND UNDISCIPLINED FORCE. HE THOUGHT THE RUSSIANS KNEW THAT THE CUBANS COULD NOT PACIFY ANGOLA. HE ASSERTED THAT THE SOVIETS AND THE CUBANS " WERE NOT ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH "CONCERNING ANGOLA AND THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT OPPOSE A DIALOGUE BETWEEN NETO AND SAVIMBI.

6. SENGHOR SAID HE HAD HIGH REGARD FOR PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND HE URGED THE US TO ASSIST HIM. THE SECRETARY AGREED AND SAID THAT WE HAVE JUST USED OUR GOOD OFFICES TO ASSIST KAUNDA IN SOME NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE IMF. SENGHOR REPLIED THAT HE WAS DELIGHTED TO HEAR THIS.

7. THERE WAS A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF THE FRENCH

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ELECTIONS. SENGHOR SAID HE OPPOSED THE FRENCH SOCIALIST'S ARRANGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNISTS AND SAID HE THOUGHT IT EXPLAINED THE DEFEAT OF THE LEFT IN THE LAST ELECTIONS WHICH HE HAD PREDICTED TO HIS FRENCH SOCIALIST FRIENDS. HE SAID HE HAD DINED WITH MITTERAND IN PARIS AND HAD TOLD HIM THAT SENEGAL WAS

SENDING A BATTALION TO ZAIRE, IN ORDER TO DO ITS PART
IN THE DFENSE AGAINST COMMUNISM. MITTERAND DID
NOT DISAGREE.

8. THE SECRETARY THANKED SENGHOR FOR THE CONTRIBUTION OF
SENEGALESE TROOPS TO UNIFIL. SENGHOR REPLIED THAT THE
PALESTINIANS HAD SUGGESTED TO HIM THAT THE SENEGALESE
SHOULD NOT FIRE ON PALESTINIANS. SENGHOR REPLIED THAT
THE SENEGALESE WERE SOLDIERS AND WOULD TAKE ORDERS FROM
THE UN COMMAND AND IN ANY CASE, IF THEY WERE FIRED UPON
BY ANYONE WOULD RETURN FIRE.

9. ASKED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE IN THE WESTERN
SAHARA, SENGHOR RECALLED THE ALGERIANS INSISTENCE, AT
THE TIME OF ITS INDEPENDENCE, THAT THE SAHARAN
TERRITORIES WERE PART OF ALGERIA AND SHOULD BE GIVEN
INDEPENDENCE WITH THE THREE COASTAL DEPARTMENTS.
SENGHOR SAID HE HAD POINTED OUT TO THE ALGERIANS THAT
THEY WERE DENYING MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA THE RIGHT TO
OCCUPY TERRITORIES TO WHICH THESE TWO STATES HAD A
SIMILAR CLAIM. HE NOTED THAT UN RESOLUTIONS REGARDING
THE SAHARA CALLED FOR SELF-DETERMINATION IN THE AREA.
HE SAID THAT HE WOULD PROPOSE, AT THE OAU SUMMIT IN
KHARTOUM, A RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD CALL UPON MOROCCO
AND MAURITANIA TO ADMINISTER A REFERENDUM IN THE
SAHARA WITH THREE OPTIONS: INTEGRATION INTO MOROCCO
AND MAURITANIA, CONFEDERATION WITH MOROCCO AND
MAURITANIA, OR AUTONOMY. HE SAID HE THOUGHT MOROCCO
WOULD AGREE TO THIS, "WITH RESERVATIONS". HE NOTED
THAT THE BASIC PROBLEM WAS RIVALRY BETWEEN MOROCCO
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AND ALGERIA. HE SAID INDEPENDENCE FOR A STATE OF
70,000 PEOPLE WAS RIDICULOUS. VANCE

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